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JUL 27 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/682,427  
Filing Date: August 31, 2001  
Inventor (first named): Prediger  
Group Art Unit: 1746  
Examiner Name: CREPEAU, Jonathan  
Attorney Docket No.: 45283.7

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I hereby certify that this document is being facsimile transmitted on this date July 27, 2004 to  
FAX No. 703-872-9306 to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Attention: Examiner Jonathan Crepeau,  
at Group Art Unit 1746 in Arlington, VA 22202

*Eileen Lucas*  
EILEEN LUCAS

DATED: July 27, 2004

AMENDMENT & RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION MAILED 06/07/2004

To: Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed June 7, 2004 and is within the three month period for reply.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

1. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6-9, 11 and 13-16 as being obvious in light of JP 7-6778 in view of Wilkinson et al., US Patent No. 6,096,448 (the "Wilkinson reference"). With respect, it is submitted that the teachings of these two references when combined do not teach all the limitations of the claimed invention, and one skilled in the art would not be motivated to combine the teachings of these two references in any event.

It is stated in MPEP, para. 2143:

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